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U.S. TRADE IN BAUXITE AND ALUMINA THE THIRD QUARTER 1997

Alcoa World Alumina and Chemicals announced that it has begun preparations to restart its alumina refinery at St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The refinery, which has been idled since 1994, has a rated operating capacity of 600,000 metric tons of alumina per year. Startup was expected to take 10 to 15 weeks (Aluminum Company of America, 1997).

Worsley Alumina Pty. Ltd. initiated a project last year that will increase capacity at its 1.73-million-ton-per-year alumina refinery in Western Australia to 1.88 million tons per year by mid-1998. In September, the company announced a further expansion program that will increase

capacity at the refinery an additional 65% to 3.1 million tons per year. Construction on this new expansion project began in October 1997 with completion scheduled for the second quarter of the year 2000 (Reynolds Metals Co., 1997).

References Cited

Aluminum Company of America, 1997, Alcoa to start up St. Croix alumina refinery: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa press release, October 20, 1 p.

Reynolds Metals Co., 1997, Expansion announced for Worsley alumina refinery: Richmond, VA, Reynolds Metals Co. press release, September 9, 1 p.

U.S. Trade Data Comparisons

	Jan.-Aug. 1997*	Percentage Change From Jan.-Aug. 1996	Principal Source/Destination
Crude & Dried Bauxite:			
Imports	7,040	+7%	Guinea (37%), Jamaica (36%), Brazil (19%).
Exports	44	-32%	Canada (87%).
Calcined Bauxite:			
Imports	214	-24%	China (57%), Guyana (22%), Brazil (8%).
Exports	16	-43%	Japan (48%), Canada (27%), Mexico (18%).
Alumina:			
Imports	2,550	-9%	Australia (75%), Suriname (6%), Jamaica (6%).
Exports	933	+46%	Canada (70%), Mexico (11%), Russia (7%).

* Thousand metric tons

Prepared by the Metals Section and the Data Collection and Coordination Section, November 17, 1997.

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TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF
CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	1996	1997			
		First quarter	Second quarter	July-Aug.	Jan.-Aug. 2/
Imports (for consumption):					
Brazil	2,080,000	414,000	519,000	415,000	1,350,000
Guinea	3,420,000	949,000	955,000	731,000	2,640,000
Guyana	693,000	107,000	182,000	107,000	396,000
Jamaica 3/	3,920,000	964,000	902,000	640,000	2,510,000
Other	120,000	27,600 r/	55,000	69,700	152,000
Total	10,200,000	2,460,000 r/	2,610,000	1,960,000	7,040,000
Exports:					
Canada	70,200	12,200	15,900	9,950	38,000
Mexico	513	156	11	235	402
Other	21,800	128	3,730	1,560	5,410
Total	92,500	12,500	19,600	11,700	43,800

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Data may include revised data from previous months.

3/ Exports to the United States; data from the Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

Sources: Bureau of the Census and Jamaica Bauxite Institute; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	1996		1997							
			First quarter		Second quarter		July-Aug.		Jan.-Aug. 2/	
	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other
Imports (for consumption):										
Brazil	6,220	6,240	100	5,250	2,020	5,800	4,870	83	6,980	11,100
China	119,000	118,000	24,000	37,400 r/	18,200	17,800	21,700	3,160	63,900	58,400
Guyana	59,000	25,800	19,200	--	23,900	--	3,040	--	46,200	--
Other	16,900	1,060	3,890	7,660	8,210	7,580	360	--	12,500	15,200
Total	201,000	151,000	47,300	50,400 r/	52,300	31,200	29,900	3,240	130,000	84,800
Exports:										
Canada	251	8,340	32	2,410	112	1,280	42	380	186	4,070
Japan	22,200	--	7,530	--	--	--	--	--	7,530	--
Mexico	2,960	1,020	429	374	1,050	19	771	228	2,250	621
Other	3,370	1,440	181	133	346	420	--	71	527	624
Total	28,800	10,800	8,170	2,920	1,500	1,720	813	679	10,500	5,320

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Data may include revised data from previous months.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA 1/

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country	1996	1997			
		First quarter	Second quarter	July- Aug.	Jan.- Aug.
Imports (for consumption): 2/					
Australia	3,120,000	640,000	739,000	539,000	1,920,000
Canada	102,000	26,200	25,400	13,300	64,900
India	68,000	7,020	--	3	7,020
Jamaica	351,000	61,700	74,100	10,500	146,000
Suriname	379,000	40,700	76,000	40,100	157,000
Trinidad and Tobago	147,000	16,400	56,600	2,860	75,800
Other	160,000	32,600	58,500	87,400	179,000
Total	4,320,000	825,000	1,030,000	693,000	2,550,000
Exports: 3/					
Brazil	1,790	228	347	192	766
Canada	712,000	244,000	205,000	204,000	653,000
Mexico	43,600	32,000	42,600	30,700	105,000
Russia	74,900	33,000	33,400	--	66,400
Other	85,500	44,600	49,900	12,600	107,000
Total	918,000	354,000	332,000	247,000	933,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide: 92,600 metric tons in 1996; 36,400 tons in first quarter; 27,300 tons in second quarter; 24,300 tons in July and August of 1997.

3/ Includes exports of alumina from the U.S. Virgin Islands to foreign countries. Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide: 43,900 metric tons in 1996; 12,200 tons in the first quarter; 12,000 tons in second quarter; 11,300 tons in July and August of 1997.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Fig. 1 - U.S. Trade in Crude and Dried Bauxite

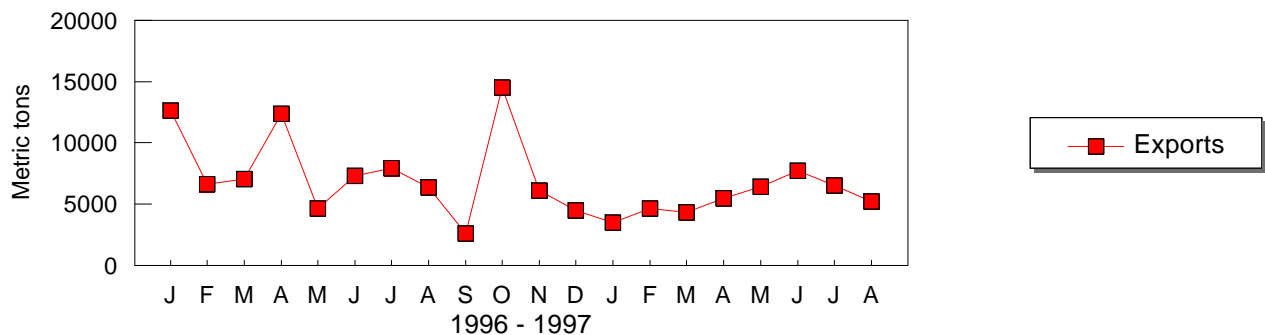
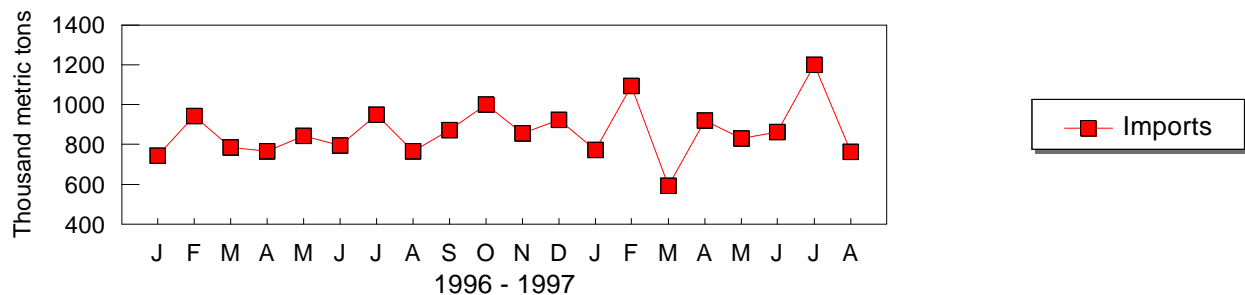


Fig. 2 - U.S. Trade in Calcined Bauxite

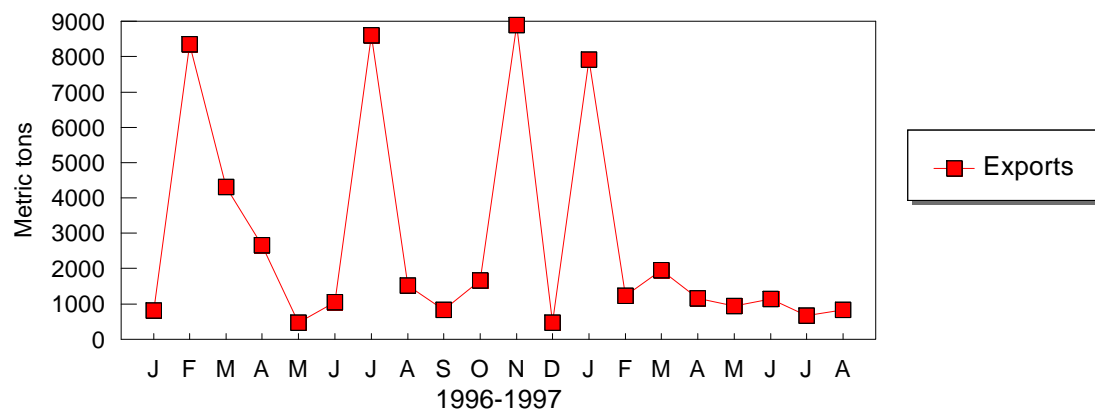
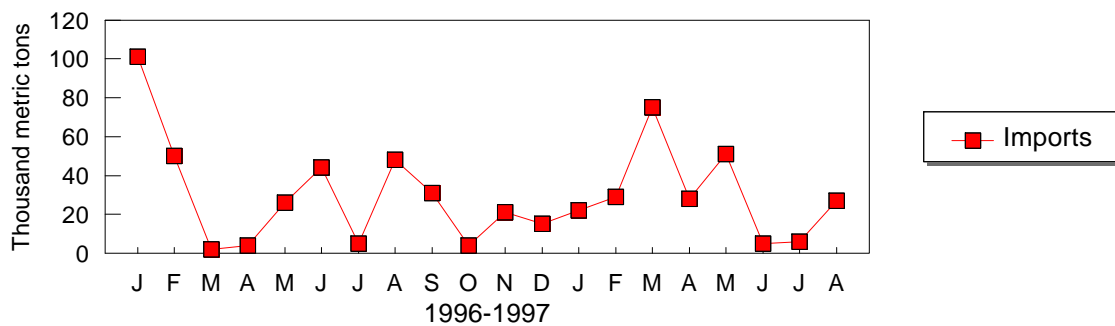


Fig. 3 - U.S. Trade in Alumina

